

Blackjack Bonanza Wager

Gaming Equipment

Rules of the Games; Blackjack

Temporary Amendments: N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.10, 1.17 and 1.18; 19:47-2.2 and 2.3

Temporary New Rule: N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.25

Authority: N.J.S.A. 5:12-5, 69e, 70f and 100

The temporary rules follow:

Summary

The temporary amendments and new rule permit an additional blackjack variation to be offered at designated blackjack tables in Atlantic City casinos. The blackjack bonanza wager is a \$1.00 supplemental wager that wins if the player has a blackjack or if each of the initial three cards dealt to the player is a seven of spades.

Blackjack offered with the blackjack bonanza wager is played with eight decks of cards, two each of four deck-types, with each deck-type differing by the dollar amounts that appear on the face of each ace, king, queen, jack and ten according to suit. The word "BONANZA" is printed on the seven of spades in each deck.

If a player is dealt a blackjack and the dollar amount printed on the face of each card matches, the player is paid that amount. Payouts for matching dollar amounts range from \$10 to \$2500. If a player is dealt a blackjack and the dollar amounts on the cards do not match, the player is paid \$5.00. If each of the first three cards dealt to a player is a seven of spades ("BONANZA"), the player is paid \$10,000.

A blackjack bonanza wager loses if the player is not dealt a blackjack or three sevens of spades. In addition, if a player is initially dealt two sevens of spades, the player's blackjack bonanza wager also loses if the player elects to split the pair, surrender his or her blackjack wager, or not draw a third card.

The temporary amendment to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.10 at new subsection (o) contains the gaming table layout and signage requirements if a casino licensee

offers the supplemental wager. The temporary amendment to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.17 requires cards used in blackjack with the blackjack bonanza wager be packaged and sealed in sets of eight, with each deck-type identified. The temporary amendment at N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.18 encompasses card distribution and card reserve rules for blackjack offered with the blackjack bonanza wager, and sets forth the requisites for the manual inspection of cards used therein.

The temporary amendment at N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.2 specifies that, if the supplemental wager is offered, blackjack shall be played with eight decks. The temporary amendment at N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.3 clarifies inconsistencies in the blackjack rules by providing that, unless prohibited, the progressive blackjack wager may be offered with other supplemental blackjack wagers.

Temporary new rule N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.25 delineates the rules and procedures specific to the blackjack bonanza wager, including additional card requirements, the use of a card reader device, payout amounts, and the prohibition of its use with other enumerated blackjack rule variations and supplemental wagers.

Full text of the temporary adoption follows (additions indicated in boldface **thus**; deletions indicated in brackets [thus]):

19:46-1.10 Blackjack table; card reader device; physical characteristics;
inspections

(a) – (n) (No change.)

(o) If a casino licensee offers the blackjack bonanza wager pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.25, the blackjack table shall contain:

1. A layout approved by the Commission which shall include, at a minimum, an additional designated betting area for the blackjack bonanza wager at each of the player positions at the table; and

2. A sign approved by the Commission setting forth:

i. The requirement of placing a \$1.00 blackjack bonanza wager; and

ii. Hand combinations and corresponding payout amounts for winning blackjack bonanza wagers.

19:46-1.17 Cards; physical characteristics

(a) Cards used to play blackjack, spanish 21, double attack blackjack, baccarat, minibaccarat, pai gow poker, pokette, red dog, casino war, poker, caribbean stud poker, let it ride poker, three card poker, fast action hold'em, colorado hold 'em poker, boston 5 stud poker, double cross poker, four card poker, texas hold 'em bonus poker and double down stud shall be in decks of 52 cards with each with card identical in size and shape to every other card in such deck. Notwithstanding the foregoing, decks of cards used to play the following games shall be modified as follows:

1. A pai gow poker deck shall include one additional joker card, which shall be identical in size and shape to every other card in such deck; [and]

2. A spanish 21 deck shall consist of 48 cards, created by the removal of the 10 of each of the four suits in the deck; **and**

3. Each deck used to play blackjack offered with the blackjack bonanza wager shall satisfy the additional card requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.25(b) .

(b) – (f) (No change.)

(g) Each deck of cards shall be packaged separately and shall contain a seal affixed to the opening of such package. Notwithstanding this requirement, cards used at [poker]:

1. Poker may be packaged and sealed in sets containing two decks of cards in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:47-14.2; **and**

2. Blackjack offered with the blackjack bonanza wager shall be packaged and sealed in sets containing eight decks of cards that satisfy the additional card requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.25(b).

(h) – (j) (No change.)

19:46-1.18 Cards; receipt, storage, inspections and removal from use

(a) – (b) (No change.)

(c) Immediately prior to the commencement of each gaming day and at other times as may be necessary, the assistant shift manager or casino supervisor thereof, in the presence of a casino security officer, shall remove the appropriate number of decks of cards **or multiple deck sets** for that gaming day from a primary storage area, and if applicable, the poker shift supervisor or supervisor thereof, in the presence of a casino security officer, shall remove the appropriate number of decks of cards **or multiple deck sets** to be used at poker for that gaming day from the poker storage area.

(d) If removed from the primary storage area, the table games shift manager or casino supervisor thereof and the casino security officer who removed the decks **or multiple deck sets** shall distribute sufficient decks **or multiple deck sets** to the poker shift supervisor and to the pit boss who shall then distribute the decks **or multiple deck sets** to the dealer at each table. If removed from the poker storage area, the decks **or multiple deck sets** shall be removed by the poker shift supervisor, in the presence of the casino security officer, and transported to the poker pit stand. Subsequently, the poker shift supervisor shall distribute the decks **or multiple deck sets** to the dealer at each poker table either directly or through the floorperson assigned to supervise the dealer. The distribution of the decks **or multiple deck sets** to the poker tables shall comply with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:47-14.2.

1. The poker shift supervisor or pit boss shall place extra decks **or multiple deck sets** for card reserve into the pit stand.

2. Prior to distributing the decks **or multiple deck sets** to each table, the poker shift supervisor or floorperson shall examine each package to determine if any replacement cards are necessary pursuant to (n)5 below. If needed, the poker shift supervisor or floorperson shall place the appropriate replacement cards into the deck from the cards held in reserve at the pit stand.

Upon insertion of the replacement cards into the deck, the poker shift supervisor or floorperson shall re-examine the front of each card and the back

of each card to ensure a consistent shading pattern and to ensure that the condition of the deck with the inclusion of the replacement cards has sufficient quality in order to maintain the integrity of gaming at poker. If the integrity of gaming at poker would in any way be compromised by the use of the deck with the replacement cards, the entire deck of cards shall be placed in a sealed envelope or container, identified with the date and time and shall be signed by the poker shift supervisor. The poker shift supervisor shall maintain the envelope or container in a secure place within the pit stand until collection by a casino security officer.

3. (No change.)

(e) With the exception of cards used to game at pokette, which are governed by the requirements of N.J.A.C. 19:47-12.3, prior to their use at a table, all decks shall be inspected by the dealer, and the inspection verified by a floorperson. Card inspection at the gaming table shall require each pack to be used to be sorted into sequence and into suit to assure that all cards are in the deck. The dealer shall also check the back of each card to assure that it is not flawed, scratched or marked in any way.

1. If, after checking the cards, the dealer finds that a card is unsuitable for use, a poker shift supervisor or casino supervisor shall bring a substitute card from the card reserve in the pit stand. **A substitute card for blackjack offered with the blackjack bonanza wager shall be taken only from an eight-deck set of cards reserved for that game in the pit stand.**

2. (No change.)

(f) – (j) (No change.)

(k) All extra decks **or multiple deck sets** in card reserve with broken seals shall be placed in a sealed envelope or container, with a label attached to each envelope or container which identifies the date and time and is signed by the floorperson or supervisor thereof for poker and the pit boss for all other games.

(l) At the end of each gaming day or, in the alternative, at least once each gaming day at the same time each day, as designated by the casino

licensee and approved by the Commission, and at such other times as may be necessary, a casino security officer shall collect and sign all envelopes or containers with damaged cards, cards used during the gaming day, and all extra decks **or multiple deck sets** in card reserve with broken seals and shall return the envelopes or containers to the casino security department.

(m) At the end of each gaming day or, in the alternative, at least once each gaming day at the same time each day, as designated by the casino licensee and approved by the Commission, and at such other times as may be necessary, a table games shift manager or casino supervisor thereof may collect all extra decks **or multiple deck sets** in card reserve. If the casino maintains a separate storage area for poker cards, a poker shift supervisor or supervisor thereof may collect all extra decks **or multiple deck sets** in card reserve for the game of poker. If collected, all sealed decks **or multiple deck sets** shall either be cancelled or destroyed or returned to the storage area.

(n) – (q) (No change.)

(r) Notwithstanding any provision of this section to the contrary, inspection of each eight-deck set of cards used in blackjack offered with the blackjack bonanza wager pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.25 shall:

- 1. Segregate such cards from the inspection of all other cards;**
- 2. Be performed manually, both prior to the use of such cards at a table and upon their return to the casino security department in accordance with the requirements for manual inspection set forth in (n) above;**
- 3. Verify dollar amount and “BONANZA” inscriptions required by N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.25(b); and**
- 4. Verify complete sets of each deck-type.**

19:47-2.2 Cards; number of decks; value of cards

(a) Blackjack shall be played with at least one deck of cards with backs the same color and design and one additional cutting card, provided, however, that the 6 to 5 blackjack variation shall be played with one or two decks of

cards and two additional cutting cards. If the additional wager authorized by N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.17(a)3 or the progressive blackjack wager authorized by N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.19 is offered, blackjack shall be played with at least four decks of cards with backs of the same color and design and one additional cutting card. If the match-the-dealer wager authorized by N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.23 is offered, blackjack shall be played with six or eight decks of cards with backs of the same color and design and one additional cutting card. **If the blackjack bonanza wager authorized by N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.25 is offered, blackjack shall be played with eight decks of cards that satisfy the requirements of N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.25(b) and have backs of the same color and design and one additional cutting card.** The cutting card shall be opaque and in a solid color readily distinguishable from the color of the backs and edges of the playing cards, as approved by the Commission.

(b) – (e) (No change.)

19:47-2.3 Wagers

(a) – (j) (No change.)

(k) [Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter to the contrary] **Unless otherwise prohibited in this subchapter**, a player may, in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.19, make a supplemental progressive blackjack wager at any blackjack table where that wager is offered either by depositing a \$1.00 gaming chip into the acceptor device designated for that player or by redeeming a progressive wager coupon in accordance with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:45-1.18.

19:47-2.25 Blackjack bonanza wager

(a) If a casino licensee, in its discretion, equips a blackjack table with the layout authorized pursuant to N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.10(o), each player who places the wager required by N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.3(a) shall also be required to make a blackjack bonanza wager in the amount of \$1.00 prior to the first card being dealt for each round of play. Notwithstanding the

foregoing, a casino licensee may, after posting a notice in accordance with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 19:47-8.3, offer blackjack without requiring a blackjack bonanza wager even if the table is equipped with a blackjack bonanza wager layout.

(b) In addition to satisfying the physical characteristics required of blackjack cards by N.J.A.C. 19:46-1.17 and 19:47-2.2, the eight decks that are used when the blackjack bonanza wager is offered shall be comprised of two decks each of four deck-types (“A,” “B,” “C” and “D”) and the face of each card shall indicate the deck type to which it belongs. For each deck-type, a specific dollar amount shall appear on the face of each ace, king, queen, jack and ten according to suit as indicated in the following table, and the word “BONANZA” shall appear on the face of each seven of spades:

<u>Card</u>	<u>Type A</u>	<u>Type B</u>	<u>Type C</u>	<u>Type D</u>
Ace of spades	\$2500	\$1000	\$250	\$10
King of spades	\$2500	\$1000	\$1000	\$10
Queen of spades	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50
Jack of spades	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
Ten of spades	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10
Ace of clubs	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
King of clubs	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100
Queen of clubs	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
Jack of clubs	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10
Ten of clubs	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10
Ace of diamonds	\$50	\$100	\$100	\$50
King of diamonds	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$250
Queen of diamonds	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
Jack of diamonds	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10
Ten of diamonds	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10
Ace of hearts	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10
King of hearts	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$50

Queen of hearts	\$25	\$25	\$25	\$25
Jack of hearts	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10
Ten of hearts	\$10	\$10	\$10	\$10

(c) A blackjack bonanza wager shall be made by placing a gaming chip on the appropriate area of the blackjack layout, except that a verbal wager accompanied by cash may be accepted provided that it is confirmed by the dealer and casino supervisor at the table prior to the first card being dealt to any player, and that such cash is expeditiously converted into a gaming chip in accordance with N.J.A.C. 19:45-1.18(a).

(d) Immediately after the second card is dealt to each player and prior to any additional cards being dealt to any player at the table or the dealer, each player's blackjack bonanza wager shall be settled. A blackjack bonanza wager shall win if the player has a blackjack or if each of the initial three cards dealt to a player is a seven of spades. The dealer shall collect all losing blackjack bonanza wagers first and then pay all winning blackjack bonanza wagers in accordance with (f) below.

(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.6(j)1 and (d) above, the blackjack bonanza wager for a player who has been dealt two sevens of spades as his or her initial two cards shall be settled as follows:

1. If the player draws a card and his or her third card is a seven of spades, the player shall win his or her blackjack bonanza wager and be paid in accordance with (f) below.

2. If the player draws a third card that is not a seven of spades, elects to split the pair of sevens, surrenders his or her blackjack wager or decides to stand, the player shall lose his or her blackjack bonanza wager.

3. In the event a card reader device is being utilized at the table and the dealer has blackjack, the player shall be dealt a third card for purposes of determining the outcome of the blackjack bonanza wager.

(f) Winning blackjack bonanza wagers shall be paid as follows:

1. If the player is dealt a blackjack and the dollar amount on the face of each card is a match, the player shall be paid that amount.

2. If the player is dealt a blackjack and the dollar amount on the face of each card does not match, the player shall be paid \$5.00.

3. If each of the first three cards dealt to the player is a seven of spades, the player shall be paid \$10,000.

(g) A blackjack bonanza wager shall have no bearing on any other wager made by a player at the game of blackjack.

(h) The blackjack bonanza wager may not be offered at any blackjack table which offers any of the following supplemental wagers or rule variations:

1. The special payout odds authorized by N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.3(e)1, 2 and 3;

2. The five cards totaling 21 rule authorized by N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.3(e)4 and 2.16;

3. The permissible additional wager authorized by N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.17;

4. The multiple action blackjack rule authorized by N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.18;

5. The progressive blackjack wager authorized by N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.19;

6. The blackjack bonus wager authorized by N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.20;

7. The streak wager authorized by N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.22; and

8. The match-the-dealer wager authorized by N.J.A.C. 19:47-2.23.